



RAVALLI COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
215 S 4<sup>th</sup> STREET, SUITE D  
HAMILTON, MT 59840  
(406)375-6565, Fax 375-6566

Fees Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Receipt # \_\_\_\_\_

**GROUND WATER MONITORING APPLICATION – DEADLINE: MARCH 1**

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ (who to call if there is a problem)

**B. Information about the property:**

Tax ID: \_\_\_\_\_

GEOCODE: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Size of lot or parcel: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of monitoring pipes: : \_\_\_\_\_

Ear Tag Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Distance from Hamilton to parcel: : \_\_\_\_\_

Closest Town: \_\_\_\_\_

The groundwater monitoring pipes must be:

- At least 100 ft from wells
- At least 10 ft from water lines
- At least 100 ft from floodplain
- At least 100 ft from surface water
- At least 10 ft from property lines
- At least 10 ft from buildings
- Placed in natural ground (not fill)
- Be 10 feet lon
- Be 4 inches in diameter
- Perforated
- Placed at least 8 feet in the ground
- Accessible

Please provide the following information for each monitoring pipe on a parcel map obtained from this office and attached to this application:

- The location of each pipe with the assigned ear tag I.D. number
- The site evaluation number for each location,
- The distance (in feet) from the pipe(s) to the access road, and
- The route and distance (in feet) to be taken to each pipe.
- Please label all roads, ditches, stream crossings, and access points.

Additional information: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I have read the attached requirements and understand that the failure to comply with these requirements may result in the termination of monitoring of one or all test pipes. Any tampering with the pipes is subject to penalties and could make the results void.

☐ RCEH may reject ground water monitoring results during a drought year, or if monitoring was not conducted during the time of year to detect seasonally high groundwater. RCEH may also reject results if site conditions exist during monitoring that are not typical of the property or if monitoring pipes are not installed appropriately.

☐ I understand a site evaluation is necessary to obtain an on site sewage treatment disposal permit.

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to owner: \_\_\_\_\_

## GROUNDWATER MONITORING APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

**Read carefully before signing, and retain pages 2 and 3, and Appendix C for reference.**

### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS – steps to take prior to March 1, 2009

1. A completed and signed application for groundwater monitoring and the accompanying fees must be received by the Ravalli County Environmental Health Department before March 1, 2009, to initiate groundwater monitoring. Please include the Parcel # (Tax I. D. number), Geocode #, and location of each monitoring pipe. Please obtain a parcel map from the RCEH office and label the map with the names of roads, access points, distances, pipe locations and numbers. If the site is difficult to find, you should also include a vicinity map.
2. The phone number of a local contact person is necessary in case we have problems locating the site or obtaining access, or have problems with animals.
3. A site evaluation is required prior to the issuance of a wastewater (septic) treatment permit, and **we strongly recommend the site evaluation be conducted prior to groundwater monitoring to verify that the site is suitable for a drainfield.** If approved, the drainfield will have to be placed within 25 feet of the monitoring pipe at the same or higher elevation, and it must not be placed any closer than the monitoring pipe to surface water. If the monitored site is not suitable for a drainfield, a wastewater (septic) treatment permit cannot be issued for the site, even if it has already passed groundwater monitoring.

### MONITORING PIPE REQUIREMENTS

1. A four-inch (4") diameter, ten-foot (10') long, perforated PVC pipe must be placed vertically at least eight feet (8') below the natural ground surface. For alternative monitoring pipe design, please contact our office.
2. Any tampering with the pipes or adding material that would interfere with monitoring or change the results may subject you to penalties and could void the monitoring results and void any permits issued based on these results.
3. Backfill around the pipes must be level with the natural existing topography of the site. Please do not mound soil around the pipe or bend the pipe during backfilling.
4. All monitoring pipes must have the assigned ear tag attached to the top of the pipe with the numbers facing outward and easily readable. The area around each pipe must be cleared of any tall vegetation and remain clear throughout the monitoring season.
5. You must provide marked crossings for all irrigation ditches or drainages. County vehicles are not equipped to cross open irrigation ditches, irrigation pipes, open water, drainages, streams, or channels. If the field is wet or muddy, please provide suitable road material to provide access to the pipes and prevent vehicles from getting stuck.
6. If you are growing a crop that will obscure the pipe during the monitoring season, please make sure you have marked the pipe with ribbon, flagging, or other means. If the pipe cannot be located, monitoring may be terminated, in which case it would be necessary to monitor in a subsequent year. If pipes are damaged by vehicles or farm equipment, it is the owner's responsibility to repair or replace them.
7. Livestock may rub against a monitoring pipe, often damaging or destroying it. We suggest using steel posts and wires to protect the pipe or cutting the pipe so less than 10 inches is exposed above the ground.
8. Access to pipes must be provided by the landowner throughout the monitoring season. We must be able to drive safely to within 100 feet of each pipe. Please provide access gates that are clearly marked and easy to open. If you are growing a crop, the weekly visits may likely create a temporary access road to each pipe. If this is a problem, you may want to wait to monitor the site in another year when you are no longer growing a crop.

9. During the monitoring season, if a pipe is damaged for any reason, you must repair or replace it before the next weekly visit. If two successive monitoring dates are missed because of the damage, monitoring results may be deemed inconclusive and require the monitoring to be repeated during a subsequent year. Ravalli County will not be responsible or liable for damage to any monitoring pipe, irrigation pipe or equipment left unmarked in the monitoring area.
10. No ground modifications are allowed anywhere in the vicinity of the pipe. An area of at least 100 feet surrounding the pipe must not be artificially drained, filled, cut, or otherwise disturbed or altered. The pipe must be at least 50 feet from a slope of 25% or greater and not located on a slope of greater than 15% unless an engineered system is proposed for slopes greater than 15% and less than 25%.
11. Monitoring pipes must be located at least 100 feet from surface water, including irrigation ditches, ponds, and intermittent streams. Pipes must also be located at least 100 feet from the 100-year floodplain. The Ravalli County Floodplain Administrator should be contacted to determine the floodplain location.

We usually begin monitoring pipes in March, and we encourage you to check the water level in the monitoring pipe periodically to know the status of your monitoring. At the beginning of the monitoring season, we will mark the pipes with spray paint or ribbon to verify that we have located the correct pipes. If a pipe has not been marked by April 1, please contact us. Measurements to the groundwater level will be taken weekly until the level rises to less than 48 inches or until the groundwater level peaks and goes down for at least two weekly readings. The seasonal peak for spring runoff can be anywhere from March to mid- July. Areas that are irrigated or located near the larger irrigation ditches may be monitored into October. The results may be void if the yearly precipitation or snow pack in the Bitterroot Valley is more than 25% below the 30-year average.

We will send you the results of our monitoring once we have ceased monitoring all pipes at the site. The fee schedule and state regulations are attached. If you have any questions, please contact us at the location or phone # listed below:

Ravalli County Environmental Health  
215 South 4<sup>th</sup> – Suite D  
Hamilton, MT 59840  
(406)375-6565  
Office Hours M-F, 9-5 p.m.

Website: [www.ravallcounty.mt.gov](http://www.ravallcounty.mt.gov), Sel



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The Ravalli County Environmental Health Department will be accepting Groundwater Applications for the 2009 season from January 2, 2009 through March 1, 2009. Applications may be picked up at the Ravalli County Environmental Health Office at 215 S 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite D, Hamilton, between 9 and 5 p.m., M-F, or contact us at the number.

### **GROUND WATER MONITORING FEES – 2009**

Application Fee (one test Pipe)	\$150.00
Additional Pipes	\$ 30.00 (each)

#### **Mileage for each application (one time fee)**

Within 5 miles of Administrative Building	\$ 20.00
6 - 10 miles from Administrative Building	\$ 30.00
11 – 20 miles from Administrative Building	\$ 40.00
Greater than 20 miles	\$ 50.00

Note: Groundwater monitoring may start as soon as March 1, 2009. Access to the groundwater monitoring pipes is the responsibility of the landowner. Please provide marked access points and crossings for all irrigation ditches, streams and drainages. If we cannot safely access the monitoring piles by driving our vehicle within 100 feet of the monitoring pipe, we will notify you that we may terminate the monitoring. If monitoring is terminated or the seasonal peak occurs before or after the monitoring is conducted, the monitoring must be repeated in 2010 and monitoring fees may be retained by the county for the services already provided.